Title: Need to declare Nagpur Airport as an international airport.

SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR (NAGPUR): Sir, the Government have decided to bring about major reforms in the aviation sector − improve the existing infrastructure of the four metro airports, 100 per cent foreign direct investment, develop small and uneconomically managed airports to encourage private participation. With this decision, the airports which have remained neglected should get immediate attention for their proper development.

The proposal for the development of Nagpur airport as an International Multi Modal Hub on B.O.T. basis has already been approved by the Government of Maharashtra and is awaiting the clearance of the Central Government. Nagpur has a strategic place along the international aviation route. Its unique centrality in the Indian sub-continent makes it a logical passenger and cargo hub. Within the country, it is connected with more than 100 cities and is accessible within one and one-and-a-half hours. The Tourism industry too has a tremendous scope for attracting large number of Indian and foreign tourists.

I would, therefore, urge upon the Government to declare Nagpur airport as an international airport both for passenger and cargo and to make all the necessary arrangements for landing and taking off of the international flights from there. The people of Vidarbha region will also be happy if the proposed International Multi Modal Hut airport at Nagpur is dedicated to the memory of Dr.B.R. Ambedkar and named it as Dikshabhoomi International Hub Airport.